

A CHRISTMAS INVOCATION.

BY REV. B. H. NADAL, D. D.
Thou art our light, whose globes of light
The heavens adorn,
From azure fountains praise pour:
The Saviour's horn.

TERPSICHORE.

The Ball Season—The "Hops" that
Have Come Off, and the "Hops"
that are yet to Come Off.

The ball season now, it may be said, has
attained its zenith. Many have been the
entertaining soirees and masked assemblies,
and many more are still to come.

Hardly does an evening pass by without one
or more soiree or ball masque, select or public.
Our ball season this year has been in keeping
with the general advance of things, and of
course steps a degree beyond that of preceding
years.

It is a change, too, which will largely increase
the number of balls and ball-goers, for instead
of being, as it has been in many instances, an
extraneous labor, it now becomes an amusing and
enlightening diversion.

Below we present those societies and balls
which have come off, and those which are yet
to come. All in the future promise to be of
superior excellence. We do not think that each
will give entire satisfaction to those in attendance.

November 29—Eleventh annual ball of the
Eagle Assembly, at Musical Fund Hall.
December 1—Anniversary of the S. S. Musical
Fund Union, No. 11, U. C. of B. and S., Musical
Fund Hall.

December 6—First grand citizens' and fancy
dress festival and ball of the American Steam
Association, in the upper saloon of the U. A. M.
Hall.

December 7—Fair, dramatic entertainment,
and select soiree for the benefit of the City
Society's Progressive Lyceum, at Washington Hall.
December 7—Grand annual ball of the Spring
Garden Steam Fire Engine Company, No. 43, at
National Guards' Hall.

December 10—The Empire Sociable, at Wash-
ington Hall.
Fourteenth grand annual ball of the Resolu-
tion Hose and Steam Fire Engine Company, at
National Guards' Hall.
December 11—Second grand festival and soiree
of the Laurel Wreath, at American Me-
chanics' Hall.

Union, No. 4, U. C. of B. and S., at Musical Fund
Hall.
December 23—Grand annual ball of the J. A.
H. Club, at National Guards' Hall.
December 31—Annual ball of the Northern
Liberty Fire Company, No. 1, to be held at
National Guards' Hall.

January 1—Grand complimentary ball of the
Lafayette Hose and Steam Fire Engine Com-
pany, at Musical Fund Hall.
January 2—Annual ball of the Vigilant Steam
Fire Company, at National Guards' Hall.

January 3—Grand ball, in regalia, of Justice
Lodge, No. 186, I. O. O. F., at Musical Fund
Hall.
Book-walter Club ball, at National Guards'
Hall.

January 4—Grand complimentary ball to
Philadelphia Lodge, No. 1, A. O. G. F., at
Musical Fund Hall.
January 5—Grand annual ball of the United
States Hose Company, at National Guards' Hall.

January 14—The ball masque of La Coterie
Carnival, at Academy of Music.
January 15—Complimentary ball to be given
to the Officers of Washington Honorably
Discharged Soldiers and Seamen's Benevolent
Association, No. 1, at National Guards' Hall.

January 17—Eleventh annual ball of the Per-
severance Hose Company, No. 5, at National
Guards' Hall.
January 21—The Song-bund Masked Ball, at
the Academy of Music.
January 23—Grand ball masque of the Young
Men's Club, at the Academy of Music.

January 25—Seventeenth annual ball of the
Caledonia Club of Philadelphia, at Musical Fund
Hall.
February 8—Grand Scottish Ball of the Cale-
donia Club of Philadelphia, at Musical Fund
Hall.

March 12—Complimentary ball by the Liberty
Silver Cornet Band to the contributing mem-
bers, at Musical Fund Hall.
SNAKES AT DINNER.
How Reptiles are Fed at the London
Zoological Gardens.

George Guyon, in the Science Gossip, gives a
curious account of the feeding of the snakes in
the London Zoological Gardens.—
"As probably not many of my readers have
witnessed the operations of feeding the reptiles
at the Zoological Gardens, perhaps a short ac-
count of what was seen during a visit a few
weeks ago may be interesting. It must be pre-
sented that the sight is not altogether an agree-
able one; but, notwithstanding, it seemed to ex-
cite a sort of fascination over the spectators,
and some ladies, who kept expressing their
horror and disgust, were nevertheless as eager
as any to see all that was going on. One might
go there many times without seeing the opera-
tion, as these creatures are only fed once a week,
or, as the keeper said, all Fridays in the year
except Good Friday.

condition. This excited the curiosity of one of
the workmen, who inquired anxiously, 'They
don't eat alive, do they?' 'Alive! yes,' said
the keeper; 'do you want to have one out?'
Oh, no, said the keeper; 'they are not to be
fed with anything but the most fresh and
his companion were gone in an instant. The
cobra appears to be one of the most irritable
species; the glass front of its cage is partially
white-washed, to hide approaching objects from
it, but notwithstanding it strikes against the
glass so frequently that its muzzle was quite
raw.

"I took the opportunity of asking the keeper
if he had ever observed the cobra lick their prey
before swallowing it, as they are popularly be-
lieved to do. He replied as expected, that in
several years' experience he had never seen it
do it. It is not improbable, I think, that while
the cobra is examining its recently-killed prey to
commence the swallowing operation in the most
convenient manner, it may keep flickering its
tongue in and out as most serpents are in the
habit of doing, and this might give an inaccurate
impression of the cobra's habit. I fear this ac-
count may appear tedious to many, but I send it
on the chance of interesting some who have
never been present at the serpents'
dinner-hour."

LUMBER.
1866.—SELECT WHITE PINE BOARDS
AND PLANK.
CHOICE, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 inch.

1866.—BUILDING BUILDING
LUMBER! LUMBER! LUMBER!
4 CAROLINA FLOORING.
4 DELAWARE FLOORING.

1866.—CEDAR AND CYPRESS
LONG CEDAR SHINGLES.
SHORT CEDAR SHINGLES.

1866.—LUMBER FOR UNDERTAKERS!
LUMBER FOR UNDERTAKERS!!
RED CEDAR, WALNUT, AND PINE.

1866.—CIGAR-BOX MANUFACTURERS.
CIGAR-BOX MANUFACTURERS.
SPRINKLING AND WATER.

F. H. WILLIAMS,
LUMBER,
Seventeenth and Spring Garden,

J. C. PERKINS,
LUMBER MERCHANT,
Successor to E. Clark, Jr.,

CUTLERY, ETC.
A fine assortment of POCKET
TABLE CUTLERY, RAZORS, RA-
ZOR STROPS, LADIES' SCISSORS,

INTERNAL REVENUE.
UNITED STATES REVENUE STAMPS

PAINTS, VARNISHES, AND OILS.
No. 201 NORTH FOURTH STREET,

BRIDGESBROUGH MACHINE WORKS
OFFICE.
No. 65 N. FRONT STREET,

ROBERT SHOEMAKER & CO.,
WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS,
MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS,

STAMP AGENCY,
No. 304 CHESTNUT STREET,

WILLIAMS, GRANT,
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
No. 38, DELAWARE AVENUE,

COTTON AND FLAX
SAIL DUCK AND CANVAS.
All of the best and brands.

WHISKY, BRANDY, WINE, ETC.
H. & A. C. VAN BEIL,
OLD RYE WHISKY,
FOR FAMILIES AND THE TRADE.

H. & A. C. VAN BEIL,
FINE OLD SHERRY WINES,
FOR FAMILIES AND THE TRADE.

H. & A. C. VAN BEIL,
VERY SUPERIOR BRANDY,
FOR MEDICAL AND OTHER USES.

H. & A. C. VAN BEIL,
CHAMPAGNES
OF ALL FAVORITE BRANDS.

H. & A. C. VAN BEIL,
WINE MERCHANTS,
1119 N. WINDUP No. 1310 CHESTNUT ST.

GREAT REVOLUTION
IN THE
WINE TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES
Pure California Champagne,

M. NATHANS & SONS
IMPORTERS
of
BRANDIES, WINES, GINS,

BOUCHER & CO.,
No. 36 DEK STREET, NEW YORK.

UNADULTERATED LIQUORS ONLY
RICHARD PENNINGTON'S
STOCK AND VAULTS.

JORDAN'S CELEBRATED TONIC ALE.—
This truly healthful and nutritious beverage,
now in use by thousands—invalids and others—has
established a character for purity and quality of
superior quality which is unrivaled. It is recom-
mended by physicians as a tonic, and is a super-
ior tonic, and requires but a trial to convince the
skeptic of its great merit. To be had, who's and
retail, of J. J. JORDAN, 3 PEAK STREET, N. Y.

PENN STEAM ENGINE AND
BOILER WORKS.—NEARBY & LEVY,
PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL ENGINEERS,
MACHINISTS, BOILER-MAKERS, BLACKSMITHS,

SOUTHWALK FOUNDRY, FIFTH AND
WASHINGTON STREETS.
MELBUCK & SONS,
ENGINEERS AND MACHINISTS,

BRIDGESBROUGH MACHINE WORKS
OFFICE.
No. 65 N. FRONT STREET,

ROBERT SHOEMAKER & CO.,
WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS,
MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS,

PAINTS, VARNISHES, AND OILS,
No. 201 NORTH FOURTH STREET,

FITLER, WEAVER & CO.,
MANUFACTURERS OF
Manilla and Tanned Cordage, Cords,

RAILROAD LINES.
READING RAILROAD
GREAT TRUNK LINE.
PENNSYLVANIA TO THE INTERIOR OF

MORNING ACCOMMODATION.
Reading to Philadelphia at 9:30 P. M., arriving
Philadelphia at 10 P. M.

AFTERNOON EXPRESS.
Reading to Philadelphia at 2:30 P. M., arriving
Philadelphia at 3:30 P. M.

HARRISBURG ACCOMMODATION.
Leaves Philadelphia at 4:30 P. M., arriving at
Harrisburg at 8:30 P. M.

MARKET TRAIN.
Leaves Philadelphia at 6:30 A. M., arriving at
Harrisburg at 10:30 A. M.

WEST.
Leaves New York at 7:00 A. M. and 9:00 P. M., passing
Reading at 10:00 A. M. and 1:00 P. M., and con-
necting at Harrisburg with Pennsylvania and Northern

COMMUNICATION TICKETS.
At 25 per cent. discount, between any points specified,
for goods and firms.

EXCLUSION TICKETS.
From Philadelphia to principal stations, good for Satur-
day, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday, and Saturday, for one round trip.

FREIGHT LINES FOR NEW YORK AND
ALL THE STATIONS ON THE CAMDEN AND AMBOY
RAILROADS.

PHILADELPHIA AND ERIE RAILROAD.
DEPOT, THIRD STREET, N. W. CORNER.

PHILADELPHIA, GERMANTOWN, AND
NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, GERMANTOWN, AND
NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, GERMANTOWN, AND
NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, GERMANTOWN, AND
NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, GERMANTOWN, AND
NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, GERMANTOWN, AND
NORRISTOWN RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

RAILROAD LINES.
PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON AND BAL-
TIMORE RAILROAD.
On and after FEBRUARY 1, 1867, null further
notice.